

Contact: Ann McCarthy

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATION AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
“CENTER FOR BIORENEWABLE CHEMICALS”

Action Requested: Receive the presentation.

Executive Summary: Iowa State University’s economic development presentation will be provided by Dr. Brent Shanks, Distinguished Professor of Chemical & Biological Engineering and Director of the Center for Biorenewable Chemicals. Dr. Shanks will discuss the key industry and university partnerships involved with the Center, the type of research being conducted by the Center and the importance of biobased chemicals to Iowa’s economic future, as well as the Center-initiated Biofoundry that encourages and supports commercialization of intellectual property by graduate students. Dr. Shanks will also provide a brief update on the status of the National Network of Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI) program’s biomanufacturing initiative, including the leadership role for Iowa State University and the State of Iowa.

Dr. Brent Shanks is a Distinguished Professor and the Mike and Jean Steffenson Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering at Iowa State University and Founding Director of the National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center for Biorenewable Chemicals. He received his B.S. degree from Iowa State University and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the California Institute of Technology. Dr. Shanks worked as a Research Engineer and Department Manager in the Catalyst Department at the Shell Chemical Company technology center in Houston, Texas (1988-1999). After joining the Iowa State University faculty in 1999, his work has primarily focused on the research and development of novel heterogeneous catalyst systems for efficiently converting biological-based feedstocks to chemicals and fuels. He is co-founder of two bio-based chemical related startup companies, Glucan Biorenewables, LLC and SusTerea Biorenewables, LLC.